

In the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 1-35 and substitute therefore the following new set of claims.

1 ~~36.~~ An applicator for applying a member having a plurality of skin piercing microprotrusions to skin, the applicator comprising a head for applying a skin piercing force to the member, the head having a surface adapted to engage the member, the surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of convex, curved and cylindrical.

2 ~~37.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the surface has a convex shape.

3 ~~38.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 5 cm.

4 ~~39.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 10 cm.

5 ~~40.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the head is adapted to impact the member against the skin.

6 ~~41.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the head is spring-loaded.

7 ~~42.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, including a manually activated mechanism for impacting the member against the skin.

8 ~~43.~~ The applicator of claim ~~36~~, wherein the applicator includes a handle operatively connected to the head.

9 44
41. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the member comprises a sheet having a plurality of microprotrusions extending from a skin proximal surface or edge thereof.

10 45
42. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the microprotrusions are adapted to pierce the skin to a depth of up to about 500 μm .

11 46
43. The applicator of Claim 36, wherein the surface has a shape which approximates a curved or convex shape.

12 47
44. The applicator of Claim 43, wherein the surface has a frustum shape.

13 48
45. A method of piercing skin with a plurality of microprotrusions, comprising providing a member having a plurality of skin piercing microprotrusions extending from a body proximal surface or edge thereof, applying a skin-piercing force to a skin distal side or edge of the member with a head, the head having a surface adapted to engage the member, the surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of convex, curved and cylindrical.

14 49
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a convex shape.

15 50
47. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 5 cm.

16 51
48. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 10 cm.

17 52
49. The method of claim 45, wherein the head impacts the member against the skin.

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50. The method of claim 45, wherein a spring causes the head to impact the member against the skin.

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51. The method of claim 45, including manually activating the head to impact the member against the skin.

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52. The method of claim 45, wherein the member comprises a sheet having a plurality of microprotrusions extending from a skin proximal surface or edge thereof.

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53. The method of claim 45, wherein the microprotrusions are adapted to pierce the skin to a depth of up to about 500 μ m.

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54. The method of Claim 45, wherein the surface has a shape which approximates a curved or convex shape.

23
55. The method of Claim 54, wherein the surface has a frustum shape.--

Change of Inventorship

Kindly delete Patrick S.L. Wong, Peter E. Daddona, and Michael G. Zuck as inventors from this application.

Remarks

The present application is designated as a continuation of pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/208,813 filed December 9, 1998 ("parent application"). The parent application is being examined by Examiner Kay Shelborne in Art Unit 1616.